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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 2632

Att. Docket: 8266-0165

Applicants: Dixon, et al.

Invention: PATIENT POSITION
DETECTION APPARATUS
FOR A BED

Serial No.: 09/264,174

Filed: March 5, 1999

Examiner: Tai T. Nguyen



Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

on Dec. 4, 2000

Printed Name: BRENDA VANDEVER

Signature: Brenda Vandever

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's Notice of Allowability of Claims 1-47 and 68-87 mailed November 6, 2000. However, the following comments are considered necessary by the Applicants and are provided with the payment of the issue fee submitted contemporaneously herewith.

In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner stated, in part:

But no prior art reference utilizes the apparatus for detecting a position of [a] body on a support surface of a bed which comprises at least one first sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in a weight applied [to] the support surface; at least one second sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in the position of the body [and] the support surface; and a controller having inputs configured to receive the output signals from the first and second sensors....

The Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are directed to Claim 1. With respect to Claim 38, the only sensor required is the "at least one sensor coupled to the bed, the at least one sensor having an output signal which is variable in response to changes in the position of the body on the support

surface." The phrase "at least one sensor" is intended to cover all types of sensors supported by the specification, and their equivalents, regardless of whether one of such sensors is used, a plurality of such sensors are used, or a combination of various types or such sensors are used. Furthermore, the controller has "at least one input configured to received the output signal from the at least one sensor." Thus, in Claim 38, a controller input configured to receive an output from a second sensor is not required.

With respect to claim 68, the only sensor required is the "at least one sensor configured to detect a position of the patient relative to the mattress." The phrase "at least one sensor" is intended to cover all types of sensors supported by the specification, and their equivalents, regardless of whether one of such sensors is used, a plurality of such sensors are used, or a combination of various types or such sensors are used. Furthermore, no controller is recited in claim 68.

With respect to claim 78, the only sensor required is the "at least one sensor configured to detect a position of the patient relative to the mattress." The phrase "at least one sensor" is intended to cover all types of sensors supported by the specification, and their equivalents, regardless of whether one of such sensors is used, a plurality of such sensors are used, or a combination of various types or such sensors are used. Furthermore, no controller is recited in claim 78.

The Examiner is asked to call Applicant's attorney, Paul E. Franz, at 317-684-5263 to address any outstanding issues in order to expedite the prosecution of this application for all parties.

Respectfully Submitted,
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By: 

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